

**Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church**  
**Lowell, Massachusetts**  
**Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter**

**January 27, 2019**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

**SUNDAY READINGS**

Epistle Reading	Hebrews 7:26-28, 8:1-2	Page 116
Gospel Reading	Luke 19:1-10	Pamphlet
Creed		Page 26
The Lord's Prayer		Pages 29-30
Communion Prayers (Before receiving)		Pages 33-34
Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)		
<b>Note: All are welcome to receive the Blessed Bread (Antidoron), but only practicing Orthodox Christians can receive Holy Communion.</b>		
Memorial Service		Page 164

**Today's Calendar**

- **Parish Council Members on duty: Daniel Routsis, George Tgibides, Betty Themeles, Tom Themeles**

**This Week**

**Wednesday, January 30** – Feast of the Three Hierarchs – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, February 2** – Presentation of our Lord – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**For Our Edification**

**Wear Red to Promote Heart Health Awareness**

Go Red for Women will be celebrated next Sunday, February 3. Please wear red to mark the importance of Heart Health for Women.

**Pan Laconian Meeting**

The Pan Laconians will be meeting today at 12:30 pm at the Olympia Restaurant. The cutting of the Vasilopita and the election of officers will be held.

**HAA News**

HAA students will be presenting their Greek Letters Day Program on Sunday, February 3, 1:00 pm, at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

HAA will have an Open House the same day beginning at 1:30 pm.

**GOYA Winter Camp**

Friday, February 15, to Monday, February 18, are the dates for the GOYA Winter Camp. You may register at [mbcamp@boston.goarch.org](mailto:mbcamp@boston.goarch.org). Registration fee is \$250. Scholarships are available.

**The Three Hierarchs**

This week we celebrate the Feast Day of the greatest bishops or hierarchs, namely St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. These great Fathers of the Church are considered Patron Saints of Greek Education and Culture because they used their fast learning to teach Orthodoxy, and especially about the Persons of the Holy Trinity.

The combined celebration of these Three Hierarchs was begun a little before the year 1100 A.D. during the reign of emperor Alexius Comnenus of the Byzantine Empire. What brought this on was an ongoing heated debate among intellectuals as to which of those three bishops was the most outstanding. The monk, John Mavropous, who later became the Bishop of Euchaiton, inspired this combined celebration. He did this to quell the rivalry among those who championed the honor of one of the three bishops over the two.

**Presentation of Our Lord and Savior into the Temple**

When Christ was 40-days old, his parents, according to the Jewish tradition of that time, brought Him to the Temple. It was customary for them to offer a sacrifice to the Lord: a pair of turtledoves or two pigeons, depending on the family's status. St. Luke's Gospel tells us that when Joseph and Mary came to the Temple with the Infant Jesus, the Venerable Simon, who is described as being a "just and devout man," met them. God had promised him that he would not die until he had seen the coming of the Messiah, Who would bring deliverance to Israel. Also in the Temple was the Prophetess Anna, who also recognized that Jesus was destined for great things.

The custom of bringing babies to church on the 40<sup>th</sup> day continues down to our own day for both male and female children, and every mother who brings her newborn child to church on the 40<sup>th</sup> day is remembering the Presentation of our Lord Jesus.